

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 1, 2013

SENATE BILL

No. 23

Introduced by Senator Lara

December 3, 2012

An act ~~relating to the Office of New Americans~~ *to add Article 8.5 (commencing with Section 12092) to Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to state government.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 23, as amended, Lara. ~~Office of New Americans. Task Force on Immigrant Integration.~~

Existing law establishes the Naturalization Services Program, administered within the Department of Community Services and Development, to fund community-based organizations in assisting legal permanent residents in obtaining citizenship.

This bill would ~~declare the intent of the Legislature to establish the Office of New Americans to coordinate efforts and facilitate programs and services that result in the successful integration of California's new American immigrants~~ *establish the Task Force on Immigrant Integration within the office of the Governor to provide, among other things, recommendations on protocols and collaboration among governmental agencies to streamline resources to assist immigrant integration.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of
2 the following:

1 (a) Immigrants are a vibrant force in California's changing
2 demographics. In 2010, the foreign born represented 13 percent
3 of the United States population and 27 percent called California
4 home.

5 (b) In 2009, 31.4 percent of foreign-born individuals were legal
6 permanent residents and 44 percent were naturalized citizens.

7 (c) Of the foreign-born immigrants who are over 16 years of
8 age, 68 percent participate in the labor force.

9 (d) According to the federal Small Business Administration, 18
10 percent of all small business owners in the United States are
11 immigrants. According to the Fiscal Policy Institute, small
12 businesses owned by immigrants employed an estimated 4.7
13 million people in 2007, and according to the latest estimates, these
14 small businesses generated more than \$776 billion annually.
15 According to the United States Census Bureau, despite making up
16 only 16 percent of the resident population holding a bachelor's
17 degree or higher, immigrants represent 33 percent of engineers,
18 27 percent of mathematicians, statisticians, and computer scientists,
19 and 24 percent of physical scientists. In 2011, foreign-born
20 inventors were credited with contributing to more than 75 percent
21 of patents issued to the top 10 patent-producing universities,
22 according to the Partnership for a New American Economy.

23 (e) Additionally, the purchasing power of Latinos and Asians,
24 many of whom are immigrants, alone will reach \$1.5 trillion and
25 \$775 billion, respectively, by 2015. And, according to the White
26 House, increased immigration to the United States has increased
27 the earnings of Americans with more than a high school degree.
28 Between 1990 and 2004, increased immigration was correlated
29 with increasing earnings of Americans by 0.7 percent and is
30 expected to contribute to an increase of 1.8 percent over the long
31 term.

32 (f) During the 20th century, the nation launched a movement,
33 involving federal, state, and local governments, businesses, labor
34 unions, schools, and social organizations, to help integrate
35 immigrants into society. Today, however, few programs exist at
36 the federal or state level to accomplish similar objectives. If they
37 exist, they are often uncoordinated amongst themselves.

38 (g) Citizenship and civic participation on the part of all
39 California residents is vital to the economic and societal well-being
40 of the state.

1 (h) It is in the best interest of the state and its residents to
2 establish an Office of New Americans in state government to
3 advocate for, and promote cooperation and understanding between,
4 government agencies and immigrant residents, and to assist
5 immigrants toward naturalization.

6 (i) It is in the best interest of the state to support the ability of
7 all its residents, including immigrants, to be economically
8 self-sufficient, participate in our nation's and state's political
9 process, and develop a sense of responsibility for their community.

10 SEC. 2. Article 8.5 (commencing with Section 12092) is added
11 to Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
12 Code, to read:

13
14 *Article 8.5. Immigrant Integration*
15

16 12092. (a) There is in the Governor's office the Task Force
17 on Immigrant Integration to provide both of the following:

18 (1) On or before January 1, 2015, recommendations on
19 protocols and collaboration among governmental agencies to
20 streamline resources to assist immigrant integration and policy
21 recommendations to the Legislature on integrating immigrants in
22 the state, including a recommendation on the establishment of an
23 Office of New Americans.

24 (2) No later than six months after the date when changes in
25 federal immigration law occur to authorize undocumented
26 immigrants to change their legal status, initial recommendations
27 to the Legislature to ensure the state is ready to assist new
28 Americans eligible to change their legal status pursuant to federal
29 law.

30 (b) (1) The task force shall be comprised of 15 members
31 appointed by the Governor on or before April 1, 2014. In order to
32 be eligible for appointment to the task force, an individual shall
33 have experience and expertise in immigrant integration.

34 (2) Members of the task force shall serve at the pleasure of the
35 Governor. Upon the occurrence of a vacancy, the Governor shall
36 appoint a replacement within 20 days of the vacancy.

37 (c) Members of the task force shall not be compensated, but
38 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses to attend meetings.

39 (d) The Governor shall select the chair of the task force from
40 the members appointed, pursuant to subdivision (b).

1 (e) *Meetings of the task force shall be subject to the open*
2 *meeting requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act*
3 *(Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part*
4 *1).*

5 (f) *The task force shall meet at least four times during the*
6 *calendar year and meet at least once within the Counties of Fresno,*
7 *Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco.*

8 ~~SEC. 2.—It is the intent of the Legislature to establish an Office~~
9 ~~of New Americans to coordinate efforts and facilitate programs~~
10 ~~and services that result in the successful integration of California's~~
11 ~~new American immigrant.~~